

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Official Action argues that claims 1 and 6 have been improperly amended to include the text "said second address independent of said first address." To support the argument, the Official Action states that there is no support in the specification for the proposed amendment to the claims and that the "word 'independent' is never stated in the specification."

Applicant's representative disagrees with the rejection. Support for an amendment does not require that the exact word appear in the originally filed application. Nevertheless, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include the word "regardless." On page 1, line 2 of the originally filed application, the word "regardless" appears. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boden (US 6,615,357). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... assigning a second IP address from an inside terminal within the LAN to the terminal outside the LAN ...

The Official Action argues that this feature is disclosed by the Boden Patent at column 4, line 51 through column 5, line 65.

Applicant's representative has reviewed Boden at the above identified column and line numbers. Column 4, line 51 refers to a "user." Boden discloses, however, that the user sets the IP address in pools. Pools are shown in Boden's drawings as being items 50, 52 and 54. Boden's pools are not within a LAN. Boden's internal networks are identified as being items 56, 58 and 60 (See, Boden, col.9, line 40). Thus, in contrast with Applicant's claim 1, Boden is not

setting an IP address from within a LAN. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Applicant's invention as recited by claim 1, includes a further feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... assigning a second IP address ... during the IKE communication ...

Again, the Official Action argues that this feature is disclosed in Boden at column 4, line 51 through column 5, line 65. Again, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

IKE communication is a state during which key exchange is made. Boden has absolutely no disclosure regarding the assignment of IP address during key exchange. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claim 6, while not identical to claim 1, is also patentable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Applicant's invention, as required by claim 23, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... said first IP address is assigned to said terminal from outside said LAN.

The Official Action argues that this feature is disclosed by Boden at column 2, lines 51-64.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the above statement. Column 2 of Boden has absolutely no disclosure of the first IP address being assigned from outside the LAN. While Boden might consider specific VPN communication between gateways, Boden does not consider that a terminal outside of the LAN performs VPN communication. Accordingly, claim 23 is patentable over the art of record.

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The remaining dependent claims referred to above are patentable by virtue of their dependency of allowable independent claims.

Claims 19-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boden in view of Giniger (US 6,751,729). These claims, however, are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

Claim 24 is newly added and is supported by claim 23.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted


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